

3-17-1969

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, March 17-May 9, 1969

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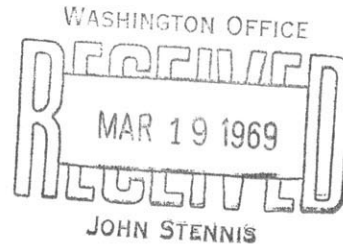
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LAW OFFICES OF  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
KOSCIUSKO, MISSISSIPPI 39090

March 17, 1969



Honorable John C. Stennis  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I have intended for sometime to write you concerning the school situation in Mississippi about which you are much more familiar than I am.

I am sure you have been furnished with copies of the letters from HEW to the Board of Institutions of Higher Learning and to the presidents of some of our state owned colleges and universities. I have been furnished with copies of these documents since I am one of the trustees of Mississippi College, a Baptist institution. If the trend continues, it is only a matter of time until they will go over another hurdle and start after the church related institutions. If you have not seen these documents I shall be glad to furnish you a copy of them.

It may or may not suit your politics, but, whether it does or not, it doesn't interfere with our working together on such matters as this and neither would it interfere with our very, very close friendship and my support of you politically. I voted for Mr. Nixon because I thought he was truthful and was going to give us some relief in our school situation. A further reason why I supported him was because I knew we could expect no relief out of [REDACTED]. Furthermore, I don't see how we can ever be compatible with the national Democratic Party. If the Republicans would take all of the property from the white people and give it to the Negroes and would give all of the Negroes a government subsidy of \$10,000.00 each per year, they might take their vote away from the Democratic Party. Anything far short of that will not win the colored vote for the Republicans. Consequently, Nixon and his group have apparently started on a course that will make it difficult for them to win the South which they could easily do with some common sense and with [REDACTED] out of the way.

Senator John C. Stennis

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March 17, 1969

I am sure that the southern Democrats are doing much more than the press tells us about in trying to work out some arrangements with Nixon and this administration. When you speak of lowering the entrance requirements for the Negroes to get into the University of Mississippi and to assigning students to rooms irrespective of the race, you are talking about destroying the university. It is impossible for me to fathom such thing.

I would appreciate hearing from you as to what is being done in the way of legislation to curb the HEW or to work out some deal with this administration to save our schools. I represent the local school district, as you may remember from former contact, and we are greatly disturbed about what confronts us in this community. We are receiving no federal aid now, yet we have about one hundred forty or fifty black students in our white schools under the freedom of choice plan.

Thanking you for all that you are doing and with every good wish and kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



GJT:pb

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 9, 1969

██████████  
Attorney at Law  
██████████

Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090

Dear ██████████:

Thank you very much for your letter about the school situation in Mississippi and especially the demands being made upon our State Board of Institutions of Higher Learning by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. ██████████, I regret very much the delay in responding to your letter but I had held it here on my desk for my personal attention and, unfortunately, it became mingled with some other papers.

First, let me say that I have read copies of the letters from HEW to the Board and have also discussed various aspects of the matter by telephone with ██████████ and several other members of the Board. I have offered my assistance to them and I am willing to do everything I can to help.

In fact, I have already talked with ██████████ personally about the problem and have told him of the efforts which we have been making and of the real progress which has been made. I emphasized to him that it was out of the question that any of our senior colleges be combined with either Jackson State College or the Junior College at Itta Bena. I do think that ██████████ understood and appreciated the points I made, but, of course, only time will tell whether this impression was correct or whether it will be lasting and effective. In addition to that phase of the conversation, I assisted the College Board in getting an extension of time in which to respond to the various points raised in the letters from HEW.

██████████, I have also discussed this general matter with President Nixon on more than one occasion. I have tried to convince him that

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Colleges

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his administration should adopt a sound policy which will foster a better education program rather than insist upon the unyielding adherence to punitive and harsh guidelines which seem to be more slanted toward social experimentation and immediate integration, even if our educational system is destroyed in the process.

I am still hopeful that the new administration will either relax the guidelines or go more slowly, and with less emphasis in the actual application thereof. All of us were greatly encouraged when we read an interview with [REDACTED] in an issue of the U. S. News & World Report, and in my conversations with him I was also encouraged to believe that the guidelines would be changed. However, in a recent press conference, his statements seemed to indicate that he had no intention of changing the guidelines.

Last year, Congressman Whitten and I worked together in securing language in the HEW Appropriation Bill to help protect our schools. This language in effect, prohibited any requirements by HEW under students be transferred or required to attend any school against their will. Unfortunately, under an interpretation by HEW under the previous administration, we did not get the full benefit of our efforts but we are certainly going to try to come up with a stronger provision this year. In addition, we were able to secure language in the appropriation bill requiring that HEW assign as many investigators in the North as in the South under the theory that if they made the same effort in the North and the parents and the citizens became aroused and oppose them, as we do, ~~then~~ sentiment would build throughout the country against the policies of HEW, and we would get the cooperation of Members of Congress from other areas in our efforts to protect our schools.

I sincerely wish I could give you a more encouraging report concerning our efforts in what has been done. However, I can assure you that I will never stop trying and I will utilize every possible chance to try to help protect our schools.

[REDACTED], I do look forward to having an opportunity before too long to discuss these matters with you personally. I am disappointed with the steps taken by the last administration and I had hoped, as I know you did, that the new administration would take a sounder approach. I still hope that this will be the case, but I have been discouraged

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with the steps taken by the new administration thus far. I think people voted for a change in these policies but, unfortunately, the change has not been forthcoming as yet.

Again, my thanks for your letter and with warm personal regards and all good wishes, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

JS.d